

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 826

By Watson E

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the late Norman E. Dillon upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as educators, administrators, and coaches of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is the late Mr. Norman E. Dillon, who devoted many years to the education and instruction of young students and athletes; in March 2006, Mr. Dillon will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee schools and athletics; and

WHEREAS, born in 1931, Norman Dillon graduated from Algood High School; afterwards, he attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute and received his undergraduate degree in Health and Physical Education; and

WHEREAS, before completing his undergraduate degree, Norman Dillon dutifully served with the United States Navy during the Korean War, protecting the freedoms and principles we all hold dear; he served for five years and received numerous medals for bravery, including the Korean Service Medal (five stars), the National Defense Service Medal, and the China Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, after sustaining an eye injury that left him permanently blind in one eye, Mr. Dillon received an honorable discharge and returned home to Putnam County to complete his degree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dillon's first teaching job was in Ducktown, Tennessee, where he met and married his loving wife, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Norman and Virginia Dillon moved to Irvington, Kentucky, where Mr. Dillon had five very successful years of coaching high school basketball; his teams were twice regional champions and four-time regional runners-up (losing to the State Champion each year); and

WHEREAS, after attaining a graduate degree in Supervision and Administration in 1965, Mr. Dillon moved his family back to Middle Tennessee, and he accepted the post of Principal at Pickett County High School ;and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dillon worked diligently while at Picket High School, coaching the school's first varsity baseball team and improving the school's conduct, sportsmanship, and reputation; and

WHEREAS, during this period, he also co-founded a Little League baseball program with United States Congressman Lincoln Davis, the Little League is still in operation today, enriching the lives of the county's youth; and

WHEREAS, committed to community service, Norman Dillon served as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the President of the Civitan Club, a church leader, and the President of the area and regional principal associations; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Dillon Family moved to East Tennessee to help care for Virginia's parents, and Mr. Dillon accepted a position at Charleston High School; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Charleston, the high school's sport teams achieved a remarkable level of success, advancing to state tournament competitions in baseball and basketball and claiming several post-season football berths; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dillon served as the President of the Bradley County Teacher's Association, the President of the Region V Principal's Association, a member of the East Tennessee Study Council, and a co-writer of the Comprehensive Career Development Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dillon obtained his Master's Plus-45 from the University of Tennessee in 1983, and he was one of the first principals to attain the status of Career Level III Principal in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as an administrator, Norman Dillon found time to serve admirably as a member of the TSSAA Board of Control; he was the first board member to be elected from a small, rural school, and he championed the causes of small schools throughout his years of service; and

WHEREAS, despite a demanding schedule, Mr. Dillon helped to establish the Charleston High School chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and volunteered with the Disabled American Veterans organization; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Dillon faithfully served the Charleston Cumberland Presbyterian Church for many years as an elder; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Dillon was supported by his loving wife and was extremely proud of his two children, Regina and Harry, who both played collegiate sports and became educators; and

WHEREAS, Norman Dillon epitomized the commitment and spirit that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Norman E. Dillon has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dillon, a man of true character and commitment, exemplified the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in molding the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards both on the athletic fields and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor the late Norman E. Dillon upon his induction into the Tennessee secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and memorialize his life of service to the youth of this great State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.